

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): DIETER GRIMM ET AL.

For: WASHING MACHINE CAPABLE OF MEASURING SURFACE PROPERTIES OF LIQUIDS, AND PROCESS FOR DETECTING SUCH PROPERTIES

Serial No.: 10/595,382 Examiner: Jason M. Heckert

Filed: April 13, 2006 Group Art Unit: 1711

Atty. Docket: IT20030040

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

In the Notice of Allowance mailed January 31, 2011, the Examiner gives a statement of reasons for allowance in which fewer than all of the limitations of the independent claim are recited. We do not agree with the Examiner's statement, as Applicants believe that patentability lies in the combination of all of the elements of the claim, and not just those recited by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the following reasons for allowance more accurately reflect the basis for patentability in the claims.

With respect to claim 17, the prior art of record when considered as a whole, alone or in combination, neither anticipates nor renders obvious a washing appliance comprising: a tank for loading washing liquor and items to be washed and having a side wall defining an inside surface with a low portion where liquid will collect; a drum rotatably mounted within the tank; a controller carrying out a predetermined washing program; spaced guide edges projecting inwardly from the inside surface of a side of the tank and extending vertically downwardly from a vertical position above a middle portion of the tank toward the low portion below the middle portion such that the guide edges converge toward the low portion to define therebetween an

inclined drain surface provided on the inside surface of the tank to funnel a portion of the washing liquor along the inclined drain surface; and at least one measuring instrument in communication with the inclined drain surface and assessing mechanical properties of such washing liquor funneled along the inclined drain surface on the basis of a drainage behavior thereof.

To avoid confusion and to clearly identify the combination of the features of Applicants' invention which has been allowed by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully suggest that Applicants' invention be defined as being allowable over the prior art of record as the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the combination of elements set forth in independent claim 17.

Respectfully submitted,

DIETER GRIMM ET AL.

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